United Nations S/2000/473

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 22 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 18 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the evil aggression committed by United States and British aircraft against civilian installations in the south of Iraq on 13 May 2000, in which nine civilian citizens, including a three-year-old child, were wounded. The letter also affirms the established right of Iraq to defend the inviolability of its territory and seek compensation for the damage caused by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-44631 (E) 250500 250500

Annex to the identical letters dated 22 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that nine Iraqi civilian citizens were wounded during the recent evil aggression mounted on the southern area of Iraq by United States and British aircraft on 13 May 2000. The details of this new criminal act are given hereunder.

At 2030 hours on 13 May 2000, 10 formations of United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft flew 22 armed sorties, comprising 8 sorties from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 sorties from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. These aircraft overflew areas of the Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Muthannah, Qadisiyah and Najaf governorates and attacked civilian and service-related installations. Nine civilian citizens were wounded in the shelling, including a three-year-old child, Ali Abdul Husayn. The total number of sorties flown from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory by the United States and the United Kingdom since their major aggression of 17 December 1998 is thus 17,163.

The ongoing aggression of the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq has come to constitute a fixed policy for the achievement of their political objectives aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. By the most elementary standards governing international intercourse, the declared policy of the leaders of the two countries in question constitutes flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions affirming that the use or threat of use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

Viewing the Governments of the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these criminal and provocative acts and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, the Government of Iraq reserves in full its inalienable right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people, as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq